WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of atomic energy plants for tribal areas

†3812. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to overtaping of hydel power and uncertain and expensive availability of coal for thermal energy, the only option available in Rajasthan is atomic energy; and

(b) whether Government would make arrangements for setting up four units of one thousand megawatt each, so that energy demand of tribal areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat could be met by the year 2012?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) While coal and hydel power would continue to remain the dominant fraction, nuclear power would also become increasingly important contributor to electricity generation capacity in the country. At present, six nuclear reactors with 1180 MWe electricity generating capacity are in operation in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Apart from the nuclear reactors in operation, two units of 220 MWe are in advanced stage of completion in Rajasthan and four more units of 700 MWe reactors are planned to be set up in Rajasthan and Gujarat during XI Five Year Plan.

Indo-US agreement on atomic energy

†3813. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement on atomic energy was signed between the Prime Minister of India and President of America in the past years, involving the two countries;

(b) if so, whether in order to execute this agreement, any talks between the two countries have been held so far at various levels;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.